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BOOK NOTES

Experiments in psychical research at Leland Stanford Junior University. By JOHN EDGAR COOVER. (Leland Stanford Junior University Publications; Psychical Research Monograph, no. 1). Stanford University, Published by the University, 1917. 665 p. (Price, \$3.50 for paper, \$4.00 for buckram, \$5.00 for half morocco binding.)

This is the first psychical research monograph. It is evidently the view of the Stanford University, as former President Jordan says, in his foreword, that the investigation in this field should be conducted "as in other departments of knowledge." Mr. T. W. Stanford, brother of Leland Stanford, and one of the University Trustees, contributed £10,000, the interest of which is to be applied to investigations of the fields termed spiritism and psychical research. The department of psychology was asked to assume the responsibility of applying the endowment to work in this field. The department felt it must not be hasty, but reflected that these problems were closely connected with religious interests. They recalled the Seybert Commission of the University of Pennsylvania, which was under the direction of Provost Pepper, Professor Fullerton, and Dr. Weir Mitchell, that Professor Sidgwick of England had been interested; and so slowly and deliberately the psychological department decided that it could accept the "responsibility of administering the endowment," which was large enough to defray the expenses of a fellowship and to refit a laboratory room for this work. We are reminded too of the interest of Oliver Lodge in this work. We are told that Dr. Coover, the author, was made Assistant Professor.

The work is divided into five parts: Thought Transference; Subliminal Impression; Mental Habit and Inductive Probability; Experiments in Sound Assimilation; and finally, Contributions by Professor Lillien J. Martin. The experiments here described are made with due precautions and under proper conditions, and in all lines with purely negative results, as every psychologist would expect. These results are stated with great tact by the author, who discharges the delicate duty of reporting adversely to the hopes of the donor of the fund, and probably also adversely to the interests and beliefs of the founders of the University. The author is not afraid to come into close quarters with the beliefs of spiritualists and he is tactful enough not to give them ground for offence. As an argument against belief in these influences, addressed to those who are in doubt or are inclined to believe, the work could hardly be better done or reported. If, on the other hand, we regard it from the point of view of an attempted contribution to psychology, we must conclude that it has very little value. No scientific psychologist believes in either spiritism or telepathy and he will doubtless be surprised that so much tedious pains was taken, in an inquiry which could hardly have been a true inquiry even in the author's mind at the start. The psychologist will deplore the swollen proportions of this book. Let us hope that it may at least serve as an excuse for some who have been inclined towards spiritism to draw back in time.

Moral values; a study of the principles of conduct. By WALTER GOODNOW EVERETT. New York, Henry Holt, 1918. 439 p.

Professor Everett has long been one of our most effective academic teachers of ethics and it will be a gratification, not only to his own many pupils but to all teachers of the subject, that he has at length ventured to come before the public with his ripened and tried conclusions. His hope that the work may appeal to a wider than the academic circle of readers we, too, trust will be justified, for it certainly will prove an excellent guide in the solution of many of the most insistent problems of moral life. All problems of morality here are treated as those of value, and this point of view is carried through from the first chapter to the last, where it is applied to the questions of religion. All things in the moral world are grouped as better or worse, according to their contribution to the worth of human life as a whole. "In these days of the tragic conflict of warring human loyalties, when the supreme sacrifice has been unhesitatingly made by millions on both sides, it ought to become clear, even to the most ordinary intelligence, that no feeling of inner loyalty or conscientiousness can prove a sufficient principle of conduct." Morality is the business of living with all the many complex interests that business involves.

The chapter headings are as follows: The Scope and Aim of Ethics; The Locus of Moral Values; Teleological and Formal Theories; The Development of Hedonistic Theories; Historical Sketch of Some Perfection Theories; Happiness as Ultimate Value; Perfection as Ultimate Value; The World of Values; Individual and Social Values; Duty and Conscience; Virtue as the Good-Will; Moral Law; The Ethical Interpretation of Freedom; Morality and Religion.

Psychology. By BURTIS BURR BREESE. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons (1917). 482 p.

The author seeks to give a comprehensive view of the facts, theories and principles of human psychology. He tries to represent the various points of view. Starting with the nervous system he passes to attention, sensation, organic, kinaesthetic, cutaneous, and the other sensations, perception, memory, imagination, association, conception, judgment, reasoning, affection, feelings, consciousness and behavior will, and the self.

Psychology now covers so large a field that it is almost impossible to write a textbook that gives a survey of all the field without being extremely superficial and general. The author certainly has not lived up to his ideal of representing all the points of view, for he gives little recognition to behaviorism, and almost none to geneticism. He has a warm side for the physical basis of mind but has a very one-sided and limited outlook upon the field of abnormal psychology. He gives abundant stress to tests.

The secret of personality; the problem of man's personal life as viewed in the light of an hypothesis of man's religious faith. By GEORGE TRUMBULL LADD. New York, Longmans, Green and Co., 1918. 287 p.

The chief topics treated are, what it is to be a person, from the evidence of facts and of words; the centre of personality; coming to one's self; the development of personality; the person as rational, moral, a lover of beauty, religious; the goal of personal life; and finally, faith as an hypothesis. It is a book that sums up the results

of many years of thought and reflection on the part of the author, and as one follows the thought it flows so easily and naturally, without controversy, without apparently even recognizing most of the difficulties, with almost no reference to literature, every one must congratulate the author with having found a solution, apparently so satisfactory to himself, of this perhaps the greatest riddle of the universe.

Instinct in man; a contribution to the psychology of education. By JAMES DREVER. Cambridge, University Press, 1917. 281 p.

This book is based on a doctor's thesis in the University of Edinburgh. It begins with a brief historical sketch; then comes descriptive psychology, a discussion of scientific views on the nature and meaning of instinct, its physiological and psychological nature, scientific tendencies, relation to sentiments, etc. It should be made plain that the author gives no signs of having made any study of the instincts of any animal; nor does he show signs of any great familiarity with the literature upon the subject. He is rather concerned with carrying over and applying the conception of instinct to the various tendencies that he finds in the human soul. It is an interesting and rather stimulating re-arrangement of old material in new ways, but the author's contentions do not seem to be material.

An investigation of certain abilities fundamental to the study of geometry. By JOHN HARRISON MINNICK. Lancaster, Pa., New Era Printing Co., 1918. 108 p.

The author devised five sets of tests, assuming certain abilities as essential to the study of geometry, an assumption based on teaching experience. Generally the school grades bear only a very slight relation to these abilities, though this may be due to the teacher's inability to grade the pupils properly. When judged too by the scores on any of these tests, schools vary greatly in their achievements, due in part to local conditions, but in part to the teacher's efficiency, which the author thinks would be increased if these tests were used to show where the emphasis should be placed.

A laboratory outline of neurology. By C. JUDSON HERRICK and ELIZABETH C. CROSBY. Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Co., 1918. 120 p.

This course has grown up in the University of Chicago during the last twenty years. Many teachers have participated in the work. The purpose is to assist the student to formulate his knowledge of the nervous system in terms of the functional significance of the parts. Use is made of the methods of functional analysis of the cortical nerve system which has been developed chiefly in American laboratories.

The psychology of behaviour; a practical study of human personality and conduct with special reference to methods of development. By ELIZABETH SEVERN. New York, Dodd, Mead and Co., 1917. 349 p.

This book may best be described by its chapter heads, as follows: Some New Aspects of Mind—The Psychology of the Unconscious; Intellect—The Psychology of Perception; Imagination and Memory—The Psychology of Extension and Retention; Will—The Psychology of Action; Emotion—The Psychology of Feeling; Sex—The Psychology of the Creative Life; Self—The Psychology of the Ego.

Unidextrality and mirror-reading. By JUNE E. DOWNEY and EDWIN B. PAYSON. (Reprinted from the Journal of Experimental Psychology, December, 1917, Vol. II, No. 6, p. 393-415.)

The psychological clinic of the Southern California Association of Applied Psychology. Reported by F. E. OWEN. (Reprinted from the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, October, 1917, 16 p.)